

FEB 28 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING CONGRESS TO PROVIDE AN EXEMPTION OR A SUNSET WAIVER
FOR HAWAII FROM THE JONES ACT TO LOWER CONSTRUCTION COSTS
AND PROVIDE NEW TONNAGE.

1 WHEREAS, historically the United States has sought to
2 protect its shipping industry through carbotage laws, such as
3 the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, commonly known as the Jones
4 Act; and

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6 WHEREAS, the Jones Act strictly limits the shipping of
7 merchandise between the United States and its territories to
8 American-built and registered ships crewed by United States
9 citizens; and

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11 WHEREAS, eighty percent of the goods consumed in Hawaii are
12 imported from the mainland or foreign countries, and ninety-
13 eight percent of these goods come by ship; and

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15 WHEREAS, while transpacific shipping costs are some of the
16 lowest in the world, especially from the United States to Asia,
17 the freight rates between the mainland and Hawaii are some of
18 the highest; and

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20 WHEREAS, much of the high cost of living in Hawaii can be
21 attributed to unnecessarily high shipping costs caused by the
22 Jones Act; and

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24 WHEREAS, such excess costs present an immense and unfair
25 burden on the people of Hawaii; and

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27 WHEREAS, Congress already recognized the unique aspects of
28 the Pacific region and the excessive burdens placed on it by the
29 Jones Act when it exempted the Commonwealth of the Northern
30 Mariana Islands and American Samoa from the applicability of the
31 Jones Act; and
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1 WHEREAS, the almost total dependence on sea freight
2 services makes the economy of Hawaii extremely sensitive to even
3 minor restrictions or disruptions in transportation; and
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5 WHEREAS, any disruption in the delivery of oil, food, or
6 other vital goods would severely threaten the health, safety,
7 and security of residents of Hawaii; and
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9 WHEREAS, an exemption from the Jones Act would protect the
10 collective health, safety, and security of the people of Hawaii
11 and would also foster shipping competition that will
12 economically benefit consumers; and
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14 WHEREAS, the federal Government Accountability Office by
15 letter dated April 10, 2012, indicated that it would release a
16 report by February 28, 2013, on its review of the Jones Act and
17 its effect upon the economy of Hawaii, among other places; and
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19 WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the report of the
20 Government Accountability Office will recommend that a "sunset
21 waiver" be created to provide an exemption for Hawaii from the
22 Jones Act that would result in lower constructions costs and
23 allow for new tonnage and more ships to serve Hawaii; now,
24 therefore,
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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the
28 House of Representatives concurring, that this body respectfully
29 requests the Congress of the United States to pass legislation
30 granting an exemption or a sunset waiver from the Jones Act to
31 Hawaii; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body respectfully requests
34 the President of the United States and his administration to
35 support the Congressional legislation requested herein; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's congressional
38 delegation is urged to request Congress to exempt Hawaii from
39 the Jones Act; and
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
42 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
43 United States, Vice President of the United States, Speaker of
44 the United States House of Representatives, Secretary of the



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1 United States Department of Transportation, and members of
2 Hawaii's Congressional delegation.
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OFFERED BY:



